

DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN

ATTORNEYS:

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For Reynaldo Pierret Lerburds,

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For Michael Leonard.

ORDER

GÓMEZ, J.

Before the Court are the applications of Reynaldo Pierret Lerburds ("Lerburds") and Michael Leonard ("Leonard") to waive their speedy trials. For the reasons stated herein, the time to try this case is extended up to and including August 31, 2018.

While the Speedy Trial Act requires that defendants be tried within seventy days of indictment, the Court specifically finds that extending this period would be in the best interest of justice for several reasons. First, an extension is necessary to allow Lerburds and Leonard time to review discovery and investigate the charges against them. Second, Lerburds and Leonard made their requests with the advice and consent of counsel. Third, without an extension, Lerburds and Leonard would be denied reasonable time necessary to explore plea options and prepare for trial.

Consistent with these concerns, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit has recognized that "whether or not a case is 'unusual' or 'complex,' an 'ends of justice' continuance may in appropriate circumstances be granted."

United States v. Fields, 39 F.3d 439, 444 (3d Cir. 1994); *United States v. Dota*, 33 F.3d 1179 (9th Cir. 1994) ("An ends of justice continuance may be justified on grounds that one side needs more time to prepare for trial [even if the] case [i]s not 'complex.'"); see also *United States v. Lattany*, 982 F.2d 866, 883 (3d Cir. 1992) ("[T]he district court did not abuse its discretion when it delayed the trial to give counsel . . . opportunity to . . . decid[e] upon and prepar[e] an appropriate defense."); *United States v. Brooks*, 697 F.2d 517, 522 (3d Cir.

1982) (holding there was no abuse of discretion where district court found that multiple count, multiple defendant "case was complex and required additional time for adequate preparation.").

The premises considered; it is hereby

ORDERED that the time beginning from the date of this order granting an extension through August 31, 2018, shall be excluded in computing the time within which the trial for Reynaldo Pierret Lerburds and Michael Leonard must be initiated pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161.

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Curtis V. Gómez
District Judge